

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05038 141038Z
ACTION HUD-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 /028 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1638

UNCLAS SEOUL 5038

DEPT PASS HUD FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ECRE, BENC, OVIP, KS

SUBJECT: INVITATION BY SECRETARY OF HUD TO ROK COUNTERPART

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED EXPRESSION OF DEEP INTEREST BY MINISTER OF NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION (MOC) SHIN HYOUNG-SIK IN VISITING WASHINGTON TO CONSULT SECRETARY FOR HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT HARRIS ON HOUSING PROBLEMS AND POLICIES. MINISTER WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE SECRETARY'S INVITATION AND SUGGESTED TIMING FOR A MEETING AT HER EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. EMBASSY WOULD BE PLEASED TO DELIVER HER RESPONSE.

2. SATISFYING PENT UP DEMAND FOR HOUSING AND THE INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORTING IT REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST URGENT PRIORITIES OF THE ROK GOVERNMENT AS ITS YOUNG POST KOREAN WAR BABY BOOM POPULATION COMES OF AGE AND MASSIVE INDUSTRIAL ZONES TAKE SHAPE IN LOCATIONS REMOVED FROM DENSELY POPULATED AREAS. THE MINISTER'S AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE THOSE OF SECRETARY HARRIS WITH ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS ANALOGOUS TO THOSE OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS. OF ENGINEERS AND SOME OF THOSE OF INTERIOR AND/OR DOE AND HE IS ALSO LEGALLY CHARGED WITH SUPERVISING AND CONTROLLING KOREAN OVERSEAS CONSTRUCTION FIRMS.

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3. AID'S OFFICE OF HOUSING HAS BEEN ASSISTING THE ROKG THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION IN DEVELOPMENT OF ITS HOUSING POLICY AND PROGRAMS SINCE 1973 AND HAS IN THE PROCESS PROVIDED \$105 MILLION OF LONG TERM HOUSING GUARANTY LOANS. IN VIEW PAST AND CONTINUING AID PROGRAM AND INVOLVEMENT IN KOREA HOUSING SECTOR SUGGEST OFFICE OF HOUSING ASSISTANCE BE REQUESTED IN ARRANGING MEETING WITH SECRETARY HARRIS AND TO

PROVIDE BRIEFING TO SECRETARY ON AID HOUSING PROGRAM AND
OBJECTIVES IN KOREA PRIOR TO VISIT OF MINISTER SHIN.
SNEIDER

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